

HOUSE No. 285

By Ms. Atkins of Concord, petition of Cory Atkins that the Teachers' Retirement Board be authorized to grant creditable service to Rosalyn Chefitz. Public Service.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM TO GRANT CERTAIN CREDITABLE SERVICE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 *Whereas*, Rosalyn Chefitz is a teacher and is in our state
2 teacher's retirement system.

3 *Whereas*, Rosalyn Chefitz' son, Alan, was born with severe
4 mental and physical disabilities.

5 *Whereas*, Rosalyn Chefitz' son, Alan, was eligible to be institu-
6 tionalized, in Commonwealth facilities, or, at the great, great
7 expense of the Commonwealth.

8 *Whereas*, Rosalyn Chefitz, chose to keep her son home and
9 extend her maternity leave so that she could provide the special
10 twenty-four hour a day, seven days a week services her son
11 required with no compensation from the Commonwealth.

12 *Whereas*, Rosalyn Chefitz, has taught herself the skills neces-
13 sary to best raise her son.

14 *Whereas*, these skills include: the ability to teach American
15 Sign Language, the ability to teach on a Wolf Plus talking
16 machine, task analysis, behavior restraints, in depth behavior
17 modifications, organized MASTAC programs, became proficient
18 in the Touch Talker Communication Device, attended speech
19 camp, and learned the Lightwriter device.

20 *Whereas*, after returning to her career, Rosalyn Chefitz then
21 presented to the Mass Transition Initiative, wrote curriculum
22 lessons for Lexington's Similarities and Differences unit, facili-

23 tated inclusion program regarding teaching students with Down
24 Syndrome, wrote a grant request that was funded at \$10,000, and
25 wrote another grant request than funded alpha smart word pro-
26 cessing devices.

27 *Whereas*, Rosalyn Cheiftz is proud that her son, Alan, has never
28 had to be institutionalized. He is well respected and admired in his
29 community. He maintains a caring relationship with his middle
30 school tutor of three years and her two children. He has three
31 friends. He received the Rotary Award despite his limitations. He
32 works at the school store. He works at the most frequented
33 “Nickel Candy” store in Concord. He passed the English and
34 Math sections of the MCAS.

35 *Whereas*, Rosalyn Chefitz, at her own expense has taught her-
36 self how to best educate and raise children with disabilities at no
37 cost to the Commonwealth.

38 *Whereas*, Rosalyn Chefitz, has raised her son to be a very
39 important contributing member of society.

40 *Whereas*, Rosalyn Chefitz, is now applying her skills and devo-
41 tion to children with disabilities to the children of Lexington, her
42 community, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the United
43 States.

44 Be it resolved therefore that:

45 Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (g^{1/2}) of subdivi-
46 sion (1) of section 4 of chapter 32 of the General Laws, in order to
47 satisfy a moral obligation, to buy back four years from teacher’s
48 retirement system is hereby authorized and directed to allow Ros-
49 alyn Chefitz four years of creditable service for maternity leave
50 taken to care for her child from 1984 to 1988 under the provisions
51 of said paragraph (g^{1/2}) of said subdivision (1) of said section 4 of
52 said chapter 32.